

Friendship 友愛

THE ENGLISH NEWSLETTER OF THE TAIWAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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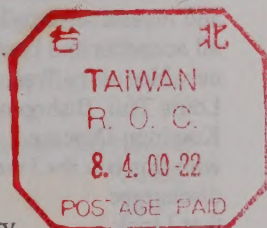
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The Bishop's Letter

Thanks be to God for we safely entered the new Millennium without Y2K problems. I was very much privileged to be invited to preach the first early morning of the New Millennium at Luces's Chapel, Tunghai University. People packed inside and outside of the Chapel. My sermon was titled, "The New Millennium year 2000 is the year of reconciliation". We have been experiencing disharmony which is the result of Presidential campaign in the society of Taiwan. In fact, we are in urgent need of reconciliation.

On January 8th, we were very grateful to dedicate and consecrate St. Timothy's church in Kaohsiung. Deacon Justin Lin was ordained to the priest hood and also commissioned to be the Vicar of the new church on the same day in the same service. It was the first time I ever did three liturgies in one service.

Just before Chinese New Year, our Assistant Treasurer Mr. John Chuang and myself went to Hong Kong to transfer all accounts and books of the CCEA to the new Honorary Treasurer, the Rt. Rev. Louis Tsui, Bishop of the Eastern Kowloon Diocese. I felt very pleased with this trip for I would be formally discharged from the Treasurer's position that I took for two terms- eight years! We were very grateful to Archbishop Peter Kong for his hospitality to us while we were in Hong Kong.

The Diocese of New Westminster in Canada had officially invited me to sign the Contract of Covenant to formally form our companion relationship in May when their Synod is in session. Unfortunately, I have to join an ecumenical team to visit Rome and churches in Germany at that time. Therefore, I proposed to send our coadjutor-elect on my behalf to sign, if our coadjutor-elect can be smoothly produced by then.

It took six Nomination Committee meetings to finalize the candidates for the upcoming election. We are very grateful to God for His guidance and to members of the Nomination Committee for their hard work. The date of elections is scheduled to be on May 13, coincidentally with our Diocesan Convocation. Before the election, we are going to hold two seminars, one in the North of Taiwan, and one in the South, in order that our people can get to know better our candidates. The date for consecration is to be on the Day of St. Simon and St. Jude, 28th of October.

This year, we have a rather long Epiphany season. Ash Wednesday usually begins with the Chinese New Year, which came late on the 8th of March. The Lenten season has 40 days all together for our Lord was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days. It is therefore, a season for the church to prepare those who are baptized on Easter, and also a special season for Christian to fast, to pray and to review their Christian lives and commitments.

The New Millennium is also the Chinese year of the dragon, which is a symbol of the good fortune to Chinese people. We have elected our new President and going to elect our Coadjutor. We do hope it is a year of benevolence and prosperity to all mankind. We sincerely pray that God will guide our people to select appropriate leaders to lead this country and this diocese into the 21st century.

In this diocese, there are signs of hope, new vigor to reach out and forming mission partnership between our own churches.

We are also have encouraged signing of partnership with Churches in the South East Asia this year.

Best regards,

Bishop Chien

ENGLISH CHAPLAIN'S 2000 APM REPORT

"Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace." Luke 2.14

As I write this report in Epophanytide I take the Lucan text as a summary of the past year's work. They may also become an inspirational motto for the work ahead. Christ's work is here and now and so our efforts are to bring glory to him on earth as we effect his world in this creation. Unfortunately this world is marred with mischief and evil. The events in Kosovo and the bombing of Yugoslavia, and later the devastating Taiwan Earthquake were two tragedies that set a backdrop mood that has affected everyone in the past year. There were of course many other "international" tragedies both natural and man made, that also caused much misery through out the world. As we approached the beginning of the year 2000 the moment seemed at times to ask the question could anything worse happen? With shame in every country one looks back upon a myriad of scandals, corruption, horrific murders and the ever growing violence, civil conflicts, wars and the indiscriminate pollution that human beings have created and courted. As Christians we are confronted and living in a world desperate for the Gospel of Christ but yet unknown or unwanted. The year ahead is indeed going to be filled with opportunities for service and action. How does one best respond to the challenges?

Locally it has been very gratifying that the church has linked up with Puli Christian Hospital in the centre of the Earthquake area. It was a great joy that so much work has been done in fundraising for this worthwhile cause. A trip to the area to see the work, to hear of the hospital's plans of social outreach in health care, and to present the cheque was organized this January. This is an

example of how to respond to the challenges.

During this past year I was privileged to see some pioneer in both Hwalien and Kaohsiung Parishes. Since then St. Timothy's Church has been consecrated and its new priest Justin Lin has been ordained and taken charge. He and the people have a huge task ahead in ministering to a congregation in Taiwanese. Fr. Michael Liu and the "mother" congregation of All Saints have done a sterling job in bringing this about. They are worthy of a visit should you head in that direction.

Hwalien also is worth visiting and has Taroko Gorge as an added natural beautiful incentive to entice one to do so. I was able to visit this parish twice and see at first hand its friendly welcoming style in outreach and mission. Firstly to Filipinos workers and secondly to the Aboriginal population. In addition some work is being done to help the students who have some disabilities. Fr. Chen and his family, particularly his son Justin deserve our special support.

Further joy in the past year has resulted from an international but local Asian link between Taiwan and Japan. This has been made originally via the Internet over a question how to do web pages in non-English languages. Lo and behold it produced Yoshi Mikami and IBM executive from Tokyo. He came at his own expenses to visit, spending a week touring around Taiwan. As a result another Japanese Anglican David Shintaro Ichihara came in March for a similar goodwill visit. Furthermore, the Japanese Anglicans have now set up a travel scholarship to be made available this year for a Taiwanese to make a reciprocal visit to Japan in 2000. The setting up of the Parish's web page in English, now expanded to include a

Diocesan web site has proved to be very informative and useful. Especially during the 921 Earthquake the site proved invaluable for concerned overseas people. Thanks to Mr. Mikami it now has a Japanese connection and really is a first of its type amongst the Anglican World's web sites. Something to be very proud of. On another level the Chinese Adult English Bible Study Language Class has exceeded all expectations. Eleven women and men have gathered for two hours each week. This has been supplemented with social outings, fine Chinese lunches and many other learning experiences. It is hoped that the group with their friends will have a ten-day tour later this year to Tasmania. For me it has been a joyful surprise that each person has grown in confidence and ability not only in English but internally. On a purely congregational activity level, the Ecumenical Taipei English speaking congregation's Christian Unity Service is now well established. It is unique in its gathering together for worship of a group of widely diverse theological opinion. Also the Sunday school has grown from non-existence into two groups, and many co-operative activities with the Chinese Host Congregation such as the Easter "Olympics" have been well attended and

received. The cry has gone up, more please. There are many organizational difficulties in trying to keep together a highly mobile varied transient group of people at any one time for an any one agreed "activity". Nothing short of God's grace and divine patience is the sustainer and melter. For such a unique Parish there is even one more historical event which needs to be highlighted, and that happened last Advent Sunday, when The Reverend Elizabeth Wei became our new Rector. This is a first in Taiwan and for me as a Chaplain I am the first westerner to work in the world to work in such a way. This might be an example to others in a chauvinist and very racist world.

My Church Warden, Marc Wall will make the personal thank you and good-byes.

One personal special thank you for Elizabeth Sah who has retired as the Bishop's Secretary. She has been an invaluable back up friend. Finally, we were all saddened at Angelus Cozart's death last year. Our prayers as ever for Jim and his family as they must bear his heavy burden.

God Bless you all as we continue to be Christ's living body meeting the challenges of faith in Taipei.

THE TRIP TO PULI CHRISTIAN HOSPITAL -JANUARY 15TH, 2000-

This was to be an unforgettable day, not least for its early start and late finish

It was a fun packed and enjoyable day. It enabled some new and valuable links to have been forged. The main purpose of this day was to present the church's cheque to the Hospital Administration and to see Puli Township. The day was fine and cool from the Good Shepherd Church in a bus kindly provided by the hospital a

small group of members from the Chinese and English congregations began our day of "sightseeing".

The first "ewe" became aware of the destructive forces of the 921 Earthquake was on the main road outside of Puli. It had been raised up to become a small steep hill. Around the side of the

road were the remains of many small private buildings. Not far away were two large apartment blocks, which were in the process of being demolished since they had been so badly damaged. Along both sides of the road we passed all the devastation which to a certain extent after four months had been cleared and repaired. However, the surrounding hills that had been left barren showed the legacy of all the scars of the huge landslides.

When we arrived at the hospital itself, we were welcomed warmly and met the founder and his wife. They were affectionately known for many years and had come from Scandinavia. Over the years they had worked hard at raising money to continue a Christian work of providing health care for those whom had formerly no access to such a thing. The Hospital had grown but the recent earthquake had damaged it rather badly and now NT\$80 million was needed to rebuild it. In addition to this vital work there were also were mothers, children and the elderly. One could only admire the board for such dedication and vision in the face of what seemed to be enormous obstacles. There was even a plan to upgrade the existing Chapel at the hospital's entrance. In fact we were invited back in the hope that next time would be able to conduct a service there. It was admitted that the earthquake had now put them on a world map and for that opportunity from a tragedy was not going to be squandered. The staff also included a new Chaplain who had access to a supportive team of helpers. While it was a small hospital of 130 beds the care offered was clearly in Christ's name.

After the short introduction we were taken to see the town. It was then we were made aware of the catastrophic effect of the earthquake, many people were still living in tents, others living in converted cargo containers, and some lucky ones in a nicely constructed "village". In all my world travels this one without a doubt was best I had ever seen

and was so clean! Its story was told in Chinese characters painted on a large rock in a landscaped garden within the "village". The children and adults that were at home were even joyful and happy. Their immediate concerns were being met in a satisfactory way. However, I was left wondering who long would it be before they could return to a normal home. For me it did seem as if it would be a long wait.

Two sites left an impression upon them and these were the former school sites and a church, both which had been completely ruined and were now demolished. What remained were large open cleared areas of ground, now quiet. Only the ghosts roamed over them. So many people had been killed, so many injured and every one that was left, affected for the rest of their lives with an active memory of that moment. Yes, how long might it be to rebuild was one question, a long time maybe, but the other one didn't seem to have a ready answer, how long to heal the inner scars of destruction?

After this rather sobering "tour" which also included seeing a landslide that had closed the local University, we were treated to some active local industry. A paper factory, one that made handmade sheets of paper used for painting and drawings. While the "machinery" seemed timeless the atmosphere was clear of pollution. I was amazed to see an education on site activity for children to show them how to do it. From wo to go, lanterns and printing thrown in as well. I could help but feel that this would be a fun day and time for children. It was almost safe in a western way, there were no poisonous additives to be wary of, no dangerous or noisy machinery and it's very clean. Some might be keeping a closer eye healthy place set in green well-tended gardens. Here was an isolated but beautiful place filled with interesting people. They were without a doubt worthy people to assist.

Report for the 2000 Annual Meeting

*Marc Wall
English Warden*

We shared much together over the last year, and we have much to be Thankful for. These are just a few of the highlights in the life of the English-speaking congregation.

Starting in rough chronological order, many of us journeyed to a park outside Hsinchu one wet spring morning to worship together, then joined in a traditional Fijian pig roast. Richard and Elizabeth Sah were our hosts and Josaia and Maraira Maivusaroko, the incomparable chefs. Mark Ohlson and I joined Father Graham for the trip to Changhua for our annual diocesan meeting. Later in the spring many of us enjoyed the competitions in the first Church of the Good Shepherd "Olympics". With Cathy Tyng on piano, Stephen Schaufele imitating Pavrotti, and me on recorder, we joined the Chinese congregation for a wonderful evening of music and song at our Mother's Day concert. Perhaps the most touching event of the spring was our gathering to celebrate the 80th birthday of Jorgen Schroder, one of our most senior and beloved parishioners.

Our numbers dwindled during the summer, as many of us scatter to the four quarters of the world. But those of us still in town for the Sunday service remember the wise words of Bill Bryson and Steve Schaufele as guest preachers. We got back together in the fall when many of us joined Bishop Chien, Elizabeth, and lay leaders from the Chinese

congregation for a pleasant evening at a restaurant near Father Graham's apartment in Tienmu. The Bryson's, Sah's, Gowmans's and I appreciated our visit with Richard, Madge and the kids at SOS village on a beautiful Saturday. Afternoon right after the September 21 earthquake, later a few of us were able to travel with Father Graham to Hualien on weekend, as well as to join the group that went to see the work of the Puli Christian Hospital to help the victims of the earthquake. And we all welcomed both the renewal of Father Graham's contract as chaplain and Elizabeth's appointment as rector.

During the year we were sad to see so many of our friends and fellow parishers leave Taiwan for other pursuits, and we mourned the passing of Angelus Cozart. But we were pleased to welcome so many new members into our congregation. We continued to enjoy each other's company during our gatherings for coffee in the clatter on the second floor after our regular Sunday services and during the brunches held once a month at one of our homes. We are grateful for the contributions many of us have made, whether as musicians, Sunday school teachers, lay readers, servers, crucifers, vestry members, or hosts. For it is these contributions that have so deepened and enriched our community of kindred believers. All of us have been nourished by it.

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

ENGLISH CONGREGATION PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

To ensure that we welcome families with younger children to your congregation, the English Congregation, under the leadership of Reverend Graham Doyle, with coordination be Andrea Ohlson and Mary Tamowka, has initiated a regular Sunday School classes and a monthly Children's Service.

From mid August through June, Sunday school Classes for children from kindergarten age up through about 8th grade are held regularly. We encourage older children to consider becoming acolytes and to volunteer to help teach the younger children. This year, we have initiated a new program whereby parent and non-parent volunteers take turns teaching the class. This system has helped make the class more interesting to our children, and helps share the

responsibility and joy of sharing our faith with the children of our community. We are pleased to note that recently we have had more fathers and non-parents volunteer; we think this sends a very positive message to our children about the importance our congregation places on its youngest members.

Another initiative by Reverend Doyle which has really hoped make our children feel part of the congregation is the monthly Children's Service, held generally on the third Sunday. We will continue to modify our programs to suit the needs of our changing congregation. We welcome your suggestions and support.

Children's Program Lay Coordinators:
Mary Tamowka and Andrea Ohlson

A Visit to St. Paul's Church, Hong Kong

(from Rev'd David Lai of Grace Church Tainan)

written by Sharon Lai

I didn't know why I was there, for I had no idea about how our choir was invited to St Paul's church. But, I did know, from the bottom of my heart, the marvel of those chorals-I had never known any songs so touching.

It was a nice day when we set out for St. Paul's church, the main destination of our journey in Hong Kong. At the beginning, we planned to practice two songs that we were going to dedicate during the worship. But soon after, some of us started to randomly name other songs. So, accompanied with guitar, we sang, we harmonized, we smiled.

Delight and joy arose, spread, until they possessed our hearts, and then extending to every corner inside the bus.

At the destination, all of us were amazed by the beauty and sublimed of that church. It was really a suitable place to glorify God's mercy and grace. There we dedicated our songs during the worship, as we planned. After the worship in the underground hall, we performed again, with other songs. This was to respond to the audience's request: an encore performance. We passed on our scores, inviting the audience to join with us. The hall was full of those musical

notes. It was just like a miracle—every note, one by one, flew into other's hearts. Chinese, Taiwanese, or Cantonese, we were equally touched by the melody, by the lyrics. And we felt the same thing: God is with us.

This was an experience that I had never had. They said music could go thorough country boundaries. I would say God's love could surpass any

boundaries, among countries and among languages, as well. I couldn't tell if our listeners really followed well with us when we passed on our scores. But I could tell the same thrilling bliss, from the smiles on every face, and from the tears in the eyes.

By Sharon Lai

"NEWS" from St. James' Parish in Taichung

The English Language congregation of St. James' Parish in Taichung, recently has lost several of its long time members.

Jeffrey and Shanshan Somerson left to a position with the home office of his company in England.

Joanne Peterson returned to South Africa to attend Bible college, and Willene and Marian also returned to South Africa.

We face the loss now of Phillip Gibson, who has been a leader of the congregation for seven or more years, serving as Officiate at Morning

Prayer, preaching, supplying music for both congregational singing and instrumental worship, and being a member of the three person steering committee

under the authority of the Vestry, Dr. Chen the Rector, and the English Language Chaplain.

We were delighted however, at the blessing in February, of the marriage of Vivian Ko and Russell Morano, two long time, active members of the congregation.

As Lent and Easter approach, I feel privileged to be a part of this diverse and devout congregation.

*Fr. Peter D'Alesandre
English Language Chaplain
St. James' Parish, Taichung
D'alesandre, Janet (writer)*

Reverend Isaiah Chaw is the Rector of Church in Melaka of West Malaysia

who visited this Diocese last December 27, 1999 to January 10 2000

*Att: . to Bishop John Chien
Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,*

Before I arrived Taiwan I wondered how I was going to fill two weeks itinerary for my visit to the Diocese, but little did I

know that I would gain so much more than I could offer. I was hoping to share my skills of mission field, but was not prepared for your gentleness and humility, your wonderful giving to God and much more of your hospitality.

The Anointed Vessel

Reading : Exo 40: 1-33

Memory verse : 2 Tim 2: 21

"If anyone purifies himself from what is ignoble, then he will be a vessel for noble use, consecrated and useful to the master of the house, ready for any good work."

Introduction:

Let us take a look at Exo 40, and as an individual, see how you and I can be a useful vessel to our Master. Before this, let us also look at what God had instructed Moses (Exo 25: 8-9). "Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you". From our reading in Chapter 40, we found that after completing each item, the Bible says "as the Lord commanded Moses" or "Moses did everything just as the Lord commanded him". Only after this did God ask Moses to anoint the furnishings one by one. From here, we can see that to be a useful vessel for God, the vessel must be anointed.

What is an anointed vessel?

I. An anointed vessel is:

1) *A vessel after God's own heart made as God had instructed.*

The first and the most important condition of an anointed vessel are that it must be a vessel after God's own heart, i.e., made as God has instructed. (Acts 13: 22) God says, "I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do."

Although David had sinned morally, he later repented. He had a humble and submissive heart. He prayed that God would change his heart (Ps. 51: 10-17) "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of my salvation, and uphold me

with a willing spirit." In verse 17, he said, "the sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise".

He had a beautiful heart and spirit: A clean heart and a right spirit because God had renewed his heart and spirit. His heart was filled with songs of praises, worship and prayers to thank and glorify God. In the Psalms that he had written, we can see that his heart was filled with love and compassion for God and had a total dependence on Him. Therefore, God's anointing on him increased and did not lessen. That is why God said that David is a man after His own heart!

But King Saul, though anointed as the first King of Israel, did not submit himself totally to God. He was not a man after God's own heart. Actually Saul had every opportunity to be a great King and leader. At the time when God led Samuel to anoint Saul as King, he was a gifted yet humble man. Saul failed because he was more concerned with public recognition than with complete obedience to God. (1 Sam 15: 10-23) records the incident when he couldn't wait for Samuel to offer the sacrifices to God and he did it himself.

That was the role of a Priest. Therefore in verse 22, Samuel said to him, "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as obeying the voice of the Lord? To obey is better than to sacrifice and to heed is better than the fat of the rams." In another incident recorded in (1 Sam 28: 8-19), he even went up to a woman who was a medium and requested her to bring up the spirit of Samuel!

A man that is after God's own wills is the one who is filled with love towards God, who offers his whole heart to God. Just like King David who said in Ps. 73: 25, "Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you." Likewise, Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her. (Lk. 10: 42)

2) *After moulded in the hands of a potter.*

The second condition for a vessel to be anointed is:

After you life been moulded –Just like clay in the hands of the potter, moulded into the vessel that He desires.

Take for example, Moses, God put him in the wilderness for 40 years to mould his character. And Joseph, God allowed him to sold to Egypt as a slave, be put into prison and pass 13 of his precious years there. Only after these difficult times did God use them!

Have you ever watched Kung Fu film shows? When the sword maker wants to make a sword, he puts the ugly looking iron rod into the fire and burns it until it is red-hot. Then he takes it out of the fire and hammers the rod. After that, he dips it in water and repeats this process many times until the rod is hammered into a sharp sword. In the same way, God moulds us before He anoints and uses us.

If you go home and read carefully Exo 37: 17-24, you will notice that the Lamp stand was made out of a piece of gold into the vessel God had commanded Moses to make. (Exo 37: 17&22)

This symbolizes that for God to anoint us, we must first offer ourselves totally to Him (spirit, soul and body). He does not want us to offer ourselves partially or offer part by part at different times for Him to fix the jigsaw puzzle. Many times, we sing... "I surrender all", but we tell God, "Do not touch my wallet!"

Why was Moses warned when he was about to build the tabernacle? (Heb. 8: 5) says, "They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven." This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle. "See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown to you on the mountain." Therefore the ultimate purpose of the vessel was to be a shadow of what is in heaven!

3) *When the vessel is put into position.*

In the latter part of Chapter 40, you will notice that every time Moses places or sets a vessel, the Bible says in verse 16, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29 & 32 that "Moses did everything just as the Lord commanded him." And in verse 33, it says, "And so Moses finished the work." Everything is in position according to God's will.

a) Are you in the right position?

Do you know why God instructed Moses so clearly about the position of each vessel?

It is because each vessel has its own function. God wanted them to be in their right Position to perform their role to the best. Therefore, when the vessels are not properly Placed, God would not do His second step, i.e., the anointing. So if you are not in your Right position according to the will of God, He will not anoint you.

b) Are you in a particular position for God or yourself?

Sometimes God will put us into a certain position in order to mould or refine us. So ask yourself a question: In my present position, is there a mixture of my own desire? Status, position or any other benefits? Or are you in this position for Jesus's sake just because you love him, and want to glorify His Name?

Once the vessel has been set into a right position, no one can shift or move them, not even the Priest. So pray and seek God's face and then reconfirm with the Pastor and the Elders of the Church, your position in the body of Christ.

When you clearly known that, that is the position that God has placed you in, no one can shake you and move you!

II. *The anointing of the vessel—the anointing power.*

A. Every Priest and every vessel meant to serve before the Lord, including the tent of the meeting had to be anointed with oil,

i.e., had to be consecrated.

B. After the anointing, they became holy. Only sanctified vessels can bring forth the power of God.

C. Once consecrated, it symbolizes that the man or the vessel belongs to God, and no longer belongs to the world or anybody else. They are not for man's use but for God's purposes only.

After Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit, He served with power. (Acts 10: 38) "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how He went around doing good and healing all those who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him." So once you are anointed by God, He is with you and you have the Holy Spirit and the power to heal and the power over the evil ones.

III. After the anointing, it is to serve in the presence of God – serve in holiness and in His glory.

A. Holy in the presence of God. A vessel that will continue to be anointed and useful in the presence of God must be holy (consecrated). Only holiness can bring God's continuous anointing and power.

B. Glory in the presence of God. Above the throne of the ark were 2 cherubims, which symbolized the holiness

and glory of the Lord in the midst of His people. If His people sin and refuse to repent, the glory of God will leave them.

IV. What is the anointing of the Holy Spirit?

Anointing is a supernatural pouring down of the power of God in order to help His people accomplish what the Lord has commissioned them to do.

Without the presence of God, there will be no anointing. And without the anointing of God, you will not accomplish the mission God has given to you.

When we feel inadequate for a task, we must remember that God anoints those who, like David, have committed their hearts to Him. God's anointing can come, as it did for David, long before the appointment for the work. When God speaks to us about future ministry, we must respond in faith and take appropriate steps of preparation, awaiting the fulfillment of His perfect timing.

Anointing will occur when we participate in a spiritually healthy group, team or Church body. The dynamics are wonderful: Lots of joy, love, peace and acceptance of each other is experienced and expressed. That is an atmosphere where the Spirit of God can flow freely. Not only does it draw people together; it also draws people to the Lord! Amen!

Learning From Each Other Between Japan and Taiwan

Yoshi MIKAMI (Fujisawa, Japan)

After I returned from my trip to the Taiwan Sheng Kong Hui churches in June, 1999 (see my article in Friendship, Aug., 1999), I felt strongly that we Christians in Japan and Taiwan should understand each other better. I talked

about it at a meeting of Nakamaro Kai, a group of Christians in Yokohama interested in learning Christianity in Asia:

We have decided to give two scholarships each year to the Christians who want to learn from each

other in East Asia. The scholarship amount is not much, and only covers the airfare from one country to another, and back.

For 1999, we looked around us and found David Shintaro Ichihara, a Japanese Anglican seminarian, who recently wrote, as a class assignment, a thesis about the history of the missionary work of the Anglican-Episcopal Church of Japan (Nippon Seikokai) in pre-World War II Taiwan. So, the scholarship was given to David, but his trip was delayed to March 4 this year, because of the Earthquake. We are waiting to hear the name of the 1999 Scholarship winner from Taiwan who is willing to learn more about Japan.

I met David when I was stationed in Nagano City, preparing for the 1998 Winter Olympic Games. He is a

graduate of University of Tokyo, and at that time worked in Nagano Prefecture for a computer company (Epson). He was an ardent supporter of St. Barnabas' Church in Okaya City, south of Nagano City, and has a few times participated in the programs at the Community of Taize, France.

David later decided to devote himself to God's calling, and from April, 1999, is enrolled at the Nippon Seikokai Theological Seminary in Tokyo, on the stipends of the Diocese of Chubu (Nagoya). David is married to Shoko. He is a good singer and a great guitarist. From this year, he also takes care of the Diocese of Chubu which will be renovated shortly at his initiation.

End of article

Yoshi

10,000 Migrant Workers, February 3, 2000

from China Times by Jason Chien translated by Rt. Rev. John Chien

Our government satisfied the need for basic labor of Taiwan market through the policies of Migrant workers. Hence Migrant workers have already become several hundreds of thousands. The fifth ethnic group in this land! They take away quite a few working opportunities from aborigines, and of course create certain social problems. They contribute much to the Taiwan economic growth; they are in fact, the unknown heroes. They also provide a need for the Taiwan families by taking care of small children and old parents, freeing mothers and husbands to work outside of the home structure.

What will be our policies of migrant workers need to be widely revised

yet the basic human rights need to be concerned for migrant workers for they are beneficial to our economy.

My father is a priest. Sunday English services are held in order to take care of the migrant workers. Due to such contact, one can realize the real situation of the Migrant workers deeply. The female workers often encountered sexual harassment. Because of the problems of communication, they have no place to ask for help; therefore Church becomes the only place for them to take refuge. Some thought foreign employment and making good money could solve all their problems. Making money is why they go abroad to begin with. It is also very easy for employers to lay off migrant workers for

unsuitable reasons. After that, they become illegal and run into very sad situations without protection. Not long ago, a migrant worker who had a stomachache went to see a doctor. He died after the doctor gave him a shot. His relative came from the Philippines yet not knowing how to deal with the problem. Without an agent or assistance, they hardly expected to clarify the matter. Whether it is due to medical mistreatment and the possible compensation. As far as living conditions of the migrant workers are had, and sometimes they even can not get their complete salary.

In fact, if the government can offer migrant workers guarantee to human rights, their quality of labor can be maintained. If they are not reasonably treated and these issues become internationally known, it will damage our

national image and hurt our relationship with nations of South East Asia.

Moreover, our legal system already gives foreign workers no matter whether from Europe or from other countries, certain protections.

In addition to that, our government needs to design a suitable channel to protect foreigners' rights- especially because of the language barriers, unequal treatment, or an English channel of explaining ones difficulties, or some programs in the public television for them to decrease their homesickness.

Certainly, if we don't spend money to protect Migrant Workers or help them to appeal their cases, we have to sacrifice our economic growth by reducing or stopping to import migrant Workers. We cannot treat our neighboring people as imported "Cheap Production Instrument" to enjoy our economic achievements.

NEW EDITOR

When Elizabeth Sah asked me if I would be interested to work as the Secretary of Bishop Chien, I was truly surprised and honored to be asked to work with such a highly distinguished person. I am not quite a secretary, but I do have experience in working with people and computers. My husband, Daniel is from Honduras and we have two wonderful children, Christopher (18 years old) and Sophia (13 years old.) Before coming to Taiwan, we lived in Honduras, Ecuador, and Argentina, serving as Honduran Diplomats. I have lived in Taiwan for about six years and very sorry to say I have not learned much Chinese. My husband was the former Ambassador of Honduras in Taiwan (1994-1998). Those years were busy with the functions of being a Diplomat's wife, active in the

PTA, and working part time, teaching English. We finished our Diplomatic Tour in Taiwan, but decided to stay here so our son would graduate from Taipei American School. Daniel began to work with a company called Advanced Digital Broadcasting which makes components for satellite to home TV. I spent the next year as President of the Taipei International Women's Club and held a one year contract as an English Consultant in a private company. My son graduated last year and is now attending Swarthmore College in Swarthmore (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), which happens to be Richard Sah's alma mater. We enjoy it so much in Taiwan that we decided to stay longer.

Susan Milla

Excerpts from the Letter from the Rev. Dick Slater from New Zealand

Monday, 10 January 2000

Dear Bishop John,

Greetings to you, Grace and your people. I hope that this New Year, the first of the Millennium holds lots of excitement for you. On my prayer list also is a couple who work with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship in Teaching. They are Callum and Fiona McKinlay.

At the end of the last year, New Zealand voted for a change of Government after having a Conservative Government for nine years. They had done a fairly good job but were not good in considering the social consequences of their policies. The elected Labour Government is promising many changes. There is much renewal going on throughout the country but there are still many areas that are struggling. There is just so much competition for our time and interest and I guess it is not too different in Taiwan.

A new move in our national Anglican Church is to have three Bishops leading us. One of them, John Paterson is known as the presiding Bishop. He represents the Pakeha section whilst Bishop Vercoe represents the Maori people. The Bishop in Fiji, Jabez Bryce, represents the Pacific Island folk.

This set up reflects our multicultural nature and seems to be working well. During recent years the Theological College has also been split into streams. In some ways I think it is a pity that the outside world will see us as divided and the fact that each stream misses many

opportunities to share in the riches of the other.

I think back with fond memories of folk I met in Taiwan when I came in 1981 or was it 1982. Bishop Pong was special - later, I visited him in Hong Kong. My visit to Good Shepherd and the Cathedral were very enjoyable. I remember being at the Cathedral with Mrs. Pong and during the Communion service each of us reciting the Prayer of Humble Access in our own Language - It was very moving and humbling.

I am pleased to read in Friendship that the earthquakes you had recently spared many lives, but I guess the damage they created will take time to be cleared. Natural disasters like this often create terrible situations. During last year, my Vicar had three months study leave overseas visiting the States and England. When he went away he was not at all well. We had some stressful, relationship difficulties, which were taking their toll on him. However he came back a new man, with a new vision, and purpose.

We are using the Alpha course in our parish on a continuing basis. It never ceases to amaze me how God transforms lives through this non-confrontational programme. We have an 80-year-old man who will go anywhere at any time to tell what Alpha did for him. He had come through the Second World War and could not understand how a loving God could allow such awful cruelty to go on, especially to children.

However, he is now a Church every Sunday!

Another lady with terminal cancer began coming regularly to Church. We prayed for her. She joined a Home Group, went through Alpha and in spite of the pain she was bearing, she would give you a fabulous smile. Because of her faith, I believe she lived an extra three years.

After her funeral I called on her daughter who had lived with her. She had frequently brought her Mum to Church but never stayed. I invited her to Church. She came and has been every Sunday since. After the first Sunday, she said to me, "Now I understand why Mom enjoyed coming to Church". This girl did Alpha. She is a new person with limitless enthusiasm and sparkle in her eye. What an encouragement for those of us who minister!

We support two missionaries. A family in Chile, working with the South American Missionary Society and a Bishop and his wife from Christchurch NZ. The Bishop asked us for funds so that they

could purchase a motor scooter for his worker to get around. It is amazing how a specific request like this so often hits the pockets of people and they turn out to be so generous.

When we retired, we put on an afternoon tea. We expected 60 or 70 people. 180 showed up! We were thrilled and humbled by such support. It has been a privilege to serve in our community, and of course that will go on through St. George's Church where I have been a member for over 45 years. God has blessed us richly in so many ways. I do hope that it will be possible for me to visit your country again. Meanwhile, I will continue to pray for you as you carry on God's Whilst my wife does not enjoy travel due to a middle ear problem, I know I would have her support if I did want to travel.

May God's love and peace overflow you in rich measure.

Sincerely,

Dick Slater

In Brief

Dear Bishop Chien,

Happy New Year! And Thank you for the copy of Friendship.

Thank you also for putting in the excerpts from my mother's letters. Unfortunately, I had at least one mistake which I hope didn't confuse readers too much.

On page 20, left column, line 19 the figure "\$300" should be "\$3.00". Perhaps if readers looked at the other figures, they probably knew this was a mistake.

Best wishes and my prayers for blessings on you, your family, and your diocese.

Ben Tucker

